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# NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release:**

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## **CLOSING OF HOSPITAL WILL NOT RESULT IN A CRISIS IN EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Monroe County Health Director Dr. Andrew S. Doniger today announced that the county's Genesee Hospital Task Force has determined that the facility's closing has not caused an acute shortage of medical services or a community crisis in emergency care.

"The other hospitals in our community are experiencing increases in patient volume that they are able to handle" Doniger said. "All in all, our system is adapting as well as we could have hoped, given the very short period of time since the closing was announced."

Working with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), the community's hospitals, ambulance companies and other service providers, the members of the Task Force have met regularly over the past six weeks to ensure a smooth transition with the hospital closing. They are tracking:

- Number of hours that emergency rooms are diverting patients to other hospitals, also called "Code Red" hours.
- Turnaround time for ambulances waiting at the emergency rooms for their patients to be treated, a key issue indicator of the ability of the hospitals to handle emergency patient volumes in the community.
- Hospital occupancy rates.

"The number of Code Red hours has not been substantial in the last few weeks and our hospital occupancy rates are running well below capacity," said Doniger. "Typically our in-patient cases peak January through March and the hospitals will add extra staff during those times."

Currently the county health care system has 1,050 staffed medical/surgical beds, without the Genesee Hospital beds. Based on historical trends, experts in community hospital planning have documented that this level of staffing will be adequate to handle the community's patient volumes on 95

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<sup>n</sup>  
***Genesee Hospital Closing release***  
***Page 2***

percent of the days in the year. At other times, additional staff would be called upon to staff beds that are approved, but not currently in use. In addition, an extra margin of safety is added because of the recent downward trend in the length of in-patient hospital stays.

The Task Force will continue to meet with the NYSDOH after the closing of the Genesee Hospital to ensure that the public health and safety needs of Monroe County's residents are being met. The official closing date of Genesee Hospital will be determined by the NYSDOH.

Members of the Task Force include: Dr. Andrew S. Doniger, chair and Monroe County Health Director; Dr. Elisabeth Hager, president-elect of the Monroe County Medical Society; Martha Bond, Executive Director of the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency; Kevin Crerand, Assistant Monroe County Executive; Daniel Labowitz, Monroe County Emergency Medical Services Coordinator; Gary Pence, Monroe County Director of Public Safety; and Steven Dungan, Monroe County Director of Mental Health.

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